

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06SANSALVADOR2953, EL SALVADOR: ASSEMBLY VOTES FOR ONE YEAR EXTENSION IN IRAQ

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #**06SANSALVADOR2953**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06SANSALVADOR2953	2006-12-15 15:57	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy San Salvador

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201108/notas/5465/>

VZCZCXYZ0015
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSN #2953 3491557
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 151557Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4675
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0042
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0090
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0076
RUCAACC/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 002953

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [IZ](#) [ES](#)

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR: ASSEMBLY VOTES FOR ONE YEAR EXTENSION IN IRAQ

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2394

Classified By: Polcouns C. Garcia. Reasons 1.4 (b,d).

¶1. (U) Late on December 14, El Salvador's Legislative Assembly passed a resolution extending the authorization for Salvadoran participation in the Multinational Forces-Iraq through December 31, 2007. The measure passed with 49 votes in favor (ARENA, National Conciliation (PCN), and Christian Democrats (PDC)) and 34 votes against (FMLN, Democratic Change (CD)). The Salvadoran forces are already preparing to send their 8th contingent of the Cuscatalan Battalion in February 2007.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: The continued presence of Salvadoran troops in Iraq is a major domestic political sacrifice for the Saca Administration, as polling published this week in leading daily La Prensa Grafica shows steady popular opposition (81 percent against, 12 percent in favor) to Salvadoran troops in Iraq. Nevertheless, Saca continues to take this political risk to maintain what he sees as a close personal relationship with President Bush and the U.S. Despite unwavering support from President Saca and his ARENA party, securing this vote required significant Embassy intervention with the PCN. PCN legislator (and retired colonel) Jose Antonio Almendariz, who has always supported the Iraq effort and has even visited the Salvadoran troops, decided early in the week to push for a six month extension vice a year and tried to convince others in the PCN to support his position. The Ambassador met with and succeeded in convincing the PCN president and party leaders to secure the 10 vital PCN votes, and Almendariz added his vote in the end as well.

Barclay